



# Capers

November 2010

**Candlewood Amateur Radio Association - Post Office Box 3441 - Danbury, CT**

Visit us on the Web at <http://www.danbury.org/cara>

President – Harlan Ford – W1QH – phone- 203-798-8096  
Vice President – Barry Connolly – KA1JDD- phone - 203-748-1033  
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Treasurer – Bill Webb – W1AFX - phone - 203-775-0536



**Meeting: Friday, November 12, 8 p.m. @ Stony Hill Fire Station**

## From the President

Hello to all from the infamous 'QH! I guess by now most of you saw the article in the News Times Oct 24th so I can toot my horn one last time....

November promises to be a great month Ham-wise. There are several contests that will be going on this month including, the ARRL Sweepstakes CW 2100Z Nov. 6 thru 0300Z Nov. 8, ARRL Sweepstakes SSB 2100Z Nov. 20 thru 0300Z Nov. 22, CQWWDX CW 0000Z Nov 27 thru 2400Z Nov 28, and more. I encourage all to join in the fun of contesting. More contests can be found at: [WWW.Contesting.com](http://WWW.Contesting.com) .

On an EmComm note, there will be two "drills" this month...the Simulated Emergency Test ( SET ) on Nov. 6 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Local and a Region 5 South EMD drill on Nov. 20. Look for details on the reflector. Don't forget that local EOC's meet on the second Monday of each month.

I have been toying with the idea of Ham classes again...both Technician and General since there seems to be some interest in these. Hint: I'll need some instructors and a place to hold classes.

Bill Webb, W1AFX, has put up a CARA display at the Danbury Library. We should all go see it. Maybe check out some books, too. (Remember Printed Books ?)

See Ya at the Meeting Nov. 12.

**73, QH**

## CARA VE session schedule:

- **Saturday, December 4th**

Sessions are held at the Stony Hill Fire Station at 59 Stony Hill Road (Route 6) in Bethel, CT.

Registration begins at 11:30 a.m. Walk-ins are always welcome; pre-registration is not required.

For further info, contact Frank Sileo, N1PE, in Ridgefield, CT at 203-438-0218 or [frsileo@att.net](mailto:frsileo@att.net).

# # #

### **OPERATORS NEEDED FOR CARA SUNDAY NET!**

Additional volunteer net controllers are needed for the 7:30 Sunday evening CARA net. Right now, Bill, N1TIW and Harlan W1QH are handling the lion's share of the work. Some additional volunteers – even for one or two Sundays a month – would be appreciated.

Any licensed club member can handle the net. There's a simple script to guide you and it's excellent practice in net operation for ARES work you may be involved in.

Don't be shy. Please get in touch with Harlan, "QH" to let him know your availability. You'll be added to a list so we can alert you when your help is needed to cover an upcoming net.

## NETS...

CARA Weekly Net: Sunday nights at 7:30



p.m. 147.30+ (PL 100)

Connecticut Phone Net (CPN) Monday through Saturday, 6 p.m., on 3.973 and Sundays at 10 a.m. on 3.965...

CW Connecticut Net, Nightly, 7 p.m., 3.533 (note correction to 3.533)

WestConn Net: Nightly at 8:30 p.m. 147.18+ (PL 114.8)

Tips Net: Tuesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. on 146.73- (PL77) (linked statewide).

R-Com Weekly Net: 145.47- (PL100) Thursday Evenings, 8 p.m.

ConnARES Local VHF Net: (now part of Area 5): Second Monday of each month, 8 p.m. on CARA repeater: 147.30+ (PL 100)

Conn ARES Issues Net: 3.965 MHz +/- on Thursdays @ approx. 6:15 p.m. (following CT Phone Net.)

**Note:** George, K2ZZ, will be at the CARA meeting this month and has offered to bring along some of the new hardcover ARRL 2011 Handbooks.

If you'd like George to bring a copy for you to purchase drop him a note at [MyRadioOasis@aol.com](mailto:MyRadioOasis@aol.com).

### Danbury Library Exhibit

The CARA exhibit is now up and on display at the Danbury Library. Try to stop down and see it. Special thanks to Bill, W1AFX, for handling all the arrangements and setting up the display case.



The photo story on display about CARA and amateur radio (courtesy KA1JDD) is available as a ten 8x10 photo display (all MS Word files) for anyone in the club who wishes to have a simple display exhibit that talks about CARA and what ham radio is all about. Contact KA1JDD for a CD containing the MS Word files and a suggested display template.

### November Program!

The program for November will be given by Scott. NE1RD.

The topic will be **“The 100 lb DXpedition.”** Those traveling to remote (and not so remote) locations--as well as emergency operators--will have much to learn from Scott's experience and advice.

73 de Frank, N8WXQ

### “QH” Featured in News-Times Ham Radio Article



For those who may have missed it, check out the great article on Ham Radio in the Danbury News-Times featuring our own Harlan W1QH. The article can be found here:

<http://www.newstimes.com/default/article/Danbury-man-is-a-regular-ham-718951.php>

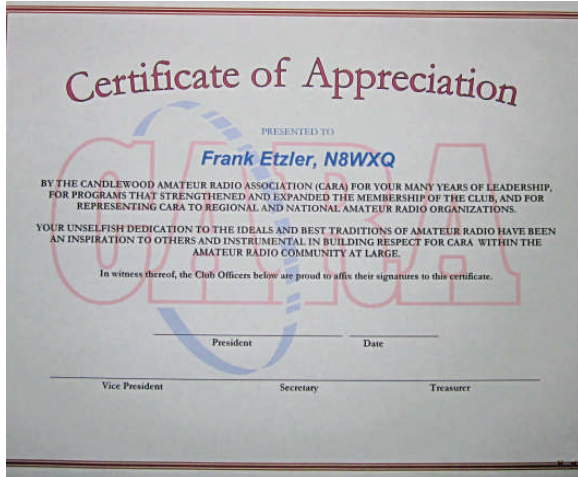
Nice photos and a positive spin on amateur radio that should help attract new members to our club. Thanks again, Harlan!



*Looking to buy or sell a ham radio related item?* Place a free ad in CAPERS! Send all information to KA1JDD c/o Barry.Connolly at yahoo.com.

## N8WXQ and N1TGK Honored at October Meeting

Frank, N8WXQ, and Judy, N1TGK, were honored by the club at the October meeting with certificates of appreciation and commemorative gifts.



The husband-and-wife team together has contributed immeasurably to the success of the Candlewood Amateur Radio Association over the years. Their leadership and service have been in the best traditions of amateur radio and continue to strengthen and grow our organization .



To mark the event, Frank was presented with a handsome engraved CW key and Judy received an engraved silver Revere-style bowl.

Club President Harlan, W1QH, hosted the award ceremony. Copies of the certificates presented are reproduced here for those who could not see them that evening.

Once again, on behalf of everyone in the club, thanks again Frank and Judy for your unselfish support and many contributions over the years!



## **CARA Meeting Minutes for October 8, 2010**

Since I had to leave the meeting early, these minutes are in two parts. I am reporting on the first part of the meeting and Barry, KA1JDD, picked up after the break.

The meeting was called to order by CARA President Harlan Ford, W1QH, with 19 members and guests present. Carl Braun, W1ZGZ, brought a guest, Charlie Russell, KB1UOH, who is a newly re-licensed ham from Thomaston. Welcome to Charlie and thanks to Carl for bringing him to our meeting.

This was not a regular meeting. A club such as ours benefits greatly from everyone's efforts and at this get together we gave special thanks to two of our members, Frank Etzler, N8WXQ, and his wife Judy, N1TGK who have been extremely active in the operation of the Candlewood Amateur Radio Association for many years.

Along with Certificates of Appreciation, we presented a Scheunemann Morse Dirigent CW key to Frank and a 10 inch, Reed&Barton, Revere-style silverplate bowl to Judy. Club President Harlan Ford, W1QH, made the presentations. The Certificates outline their contributions to CARA and are shown elsewhere in this issue of the Capers.

Again we thank Frank and Judy for their past support of CARA functions and look forward to their future work.

As a matter of fact, immediately after the presentation, Frank gave the program for the evening on High Frequency radio propagation computer software that is available to the Amateur Radio community!

During his program Frank reviewed the various layers of the ionosphere and how they affect the VLF, LF, MF, HF, VHF and UHF bands that we operate on. He further listed factors that influence the ionosphere; solar flux (sun spots), season of the year (length of day and night & sun location), time of day and X-ray and proton flux (ionospheric weather). Finally he demonstrated one of the computer programs used for determining the best band to use in a given situation, VOACAP. The program is available at [www.voacap.com](http://www.voacap.com). I went to the website and found that "VOACAP" is the Voice of America Coverage Analysis Program and it looks like you could spend days perusing its features.

Thanks to Frank for another fine program and we look forward to many more.

Before leaving I got the report of \$11,675.42 from Bill Webb, W1AFX, Treasurer. This includes \$1,892.46 from the Hamfest.

*Bill Thoren, N1TIW, Secretary*

### **Addendum:**

Minutes of CARA Meeting (Business portion approx. 9 p.m. start)

September minutes accepted as published in Capers

Congratulations offered to Ken KD1DD for repeater work. Three separate trips in the past month. Various work accomplishments included:

- Checked feedlines. Ten years old but vendor says good for 20+
- Brought down 2M folded dipole for maintenance
- Swapped out replacement 2M antenna
- 440 amplifier is out for repair
- Moved 2M repeater inside box where more room; cleaned up area

- 6M repeater tested. Output is 25 Watts
- 220 repeater is fixed but not yet re-installed
- Placed new final amp in 2M repeater
- Removed dead backup batteries
- Re-tarred sections of the roof that were leaking water
- 

KD1YV reported on the Bethel BEARS P.T. Barnum Special Event Station. A copy of the QSL certificate was passed around to the members.

Harlan W1QH noted that the Region 5 meeting/dinner would be October 25<sup>th</sup>, a Monday, at the Sandy Hook Fire Dept and that all interested hams were welcome to attend.

There was a discussion about the CARA Hamfest for 2011, noting the date would fall on 9/11, also the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the World Trade Towers tragedy. The event has fallen on 9/11 before and the club in a show of solidarity with other organizations does not change its plans but holds our event regardless. There is also a major commemorative motorcycle event that day that will bring hundreds of riders past Edmond Town Hall during the day.

It was noted by Harlan that 2011 is the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CARA and that some special event should be considered to mark the event. Further discussion to follow.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**Joe AB1DO suggested, in view of the healthy treasury balance, that the club consider either waiving the dues for members in 2011 or reducing the amount as low as our charter will allow. The matter will be discussed further and voted on at the November meeting.**

The club thanked Joe AB1DO and Steve W1SMS for updating the club Web site.

Club members also thanks Jim KD1YV and Steve W1SMS for their work setting up the CARA reflector. Jim noted that the host organization suggests an annual donation of \$25 to maintain the site's operation and Harlan as president OK'd the expenditure which was approved by the members present.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

--Barry KA1JDD for Bill N1TIW  
October 9, 2010

**NG1R Winner of ARRL "Rookie Roundup"**

Roger, NG1R, won the ARRL "Rookie Roundup" certificate for his participation in the Rookie Roundup from my station (W1QK). CONGRATS to Roger. I also wanted to mention that Roger joined YCCC at the Boxboro ARRL convention.

73 -QK.



**DX Bulletin 42 ARLD042**  
**From ARRL Headquarters**  
Newington CT October 14, 2010  
To all radio amateurs ...

ARLD042 Dissolution of Netherlands Antilles Creates Four New DXCC Entities

The dissolution of the Netherlands Antilles has caused changes to the DXCC List. As per the DXCC rules, the two Netherlands Antilles DXCC entities will be deleted and moved to the Deleted Entities List.

Four new entities will be added to the DXCC List: (1) Curacao; (2) Sint Maarten; (3) Saba and St Eustatius, and (4) Bonaire.

The event date and time for these changes was 0400 UTC, October 10, 2010.

Confirmations for these new entities will be accepted for credit starting January 1, 2011. Other administrative changes and actions will be announced as they are finalized.

## US Air Force MARS

Richard Jenson -- a Program Manager at the Air Force Network Integration Center at

Scott Air Force Base, Illinois -- has been selected as the new Chief of Air Force MARS (USAF MARS). Jensen replaces Technical Sergeant Jason E. Sandifer, who served as Interim Chief since May when USAF MARS Chief Allen Eiermann, K3LSR, retired. "I am honored to have been selected to lead this organization of dedicated volunteer radio communicators and am enthusiastic about my new responsibilities," Jensen said. "The members of Air Force MARS can be rightly proud of their service to the



nation, and I am eager to work with all of them as we enhance our ability to serve those who serve us."

## This Week on the Radio

*This week:*

- November 5 -- QRP Fox Hunt
- November 6-7 -- Ukrainian DX Contest
- November 6-8 -- [ARRL CW Sweepstakes](#)
- November 7 -- High Speed Club CW Contest
- November 10 -- QRP Fox Hunt
- November 10-11 -- CWops Mini-CWT Test

*Next week:*

- November 13-14 -- Kentucky QSO Party; WAE DX Contest (RTTY); OK/OM DX Contest (CW)
- November 13-15 -- CQ-WE Contest
- November 14 -- SKCC Weekend Sprint
- November 17 -- QRP Fox Hunt
- November 18 -- NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint

All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the [ARRL Contest Branch page](#), the [ARRL Contest Update](#) and the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#) for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the [ARRL Special Events Station Web page](#).